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The Rural District
Council of the
Isle of Axholme

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year
1948.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

ISLE OF AXHOLME

1948

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor G. Chessman, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor R. E. Cock.

Health Committee:

Chairman: Councillor G. C. Hurst (Belton).
Councillor G. Chessman, J.P. (Keadby).
Councillor J. T. C. Holliday (Crowle).
Councillor Mrs. E. N. Johnson, J.P. (Belton).
Councillor H. Mason (Crowle).
Councillor P. D. Taylor (Wroot).
Councillor A. L. Thornton (Amcotts).
Councillor J. W. Threadgold (Epworth).
Councillor P. Wickenden, J.P. (Althorpe).
Councillor W. W. Whitehead (Haxey).
Councillor W. J. Barnard (Haxey).
Councillor A. Axe (Crowle).
Councillor R. E. Cock (Luddington).

Clerk of the Council:

S. W. Chester, Esq., A.C.C.S.

Staff of Public Health Department:

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. J. C. Macartney.
Senior Sanitary Inspector: Mr. J. T. Battye.
Additional Sanitary Inspector: Mr. G. C. Edgington.

Isle of Axholme Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1948

To the Chairman and Members of the Isle of Axholme
Rural District Council.

12th August, 1949.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1948. The population has increased by 470. The Birth Rate has fallen slightly. The Death Rate shows a marked reduction. Infant Mortality Rate was nearly half of the previous year's figure and, as far as I am aware, this year's rate is the lowest on record for this district. Infectious Disease incidence was very low and there has been no case of Diphtheria since 1946.

The statistics concerning the above are pleasing indications of the satisfactory state of the health of the district during the year.

In conclusion I am grateful to have had the valuable and willing co-operation from the Council's officials and staffs. I also wish to thank the Council for their helpful consideration of Public Health matters.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	51,104 acres
Estimated Population	13,720
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1948	£31,396
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£122/10/-

The essential industry of the District is agriculture, with the usual small industries ancillary to agriculture. The drainage of the area has resulted in this becoming a very fertile food production district.

A large grain silo and seed dressing depot and a grass drying plant are new developments at Epworth. Also a very large electricity generating station is in course of erection at Keadby for the British Electricity Authority. For the employees of this station some 150 additional houses may be necessary. Other industries are Tillage Works, Brickyards, Agricultural Machinery work, a Brewery. and Builders' businesses.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	145	110	255
Legitimate	129	100	229
Illegitimate	16	10	26
Still Births	3	1	4
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Birth Rate, per 1,000 of Estimated Population	18.58		

DEATHS.	Male	Female	Total
All Causes	84	62	146
Infants under one year	2	5	7
Death Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population			10.6
Infantile Mortality Rate			27.4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	2	4
Spyhilitic Diseases	1	—	1
Measles	—	1	1
Cancer of Oesophagus	3	—	3
Cancer of Uterus	—	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	1	3
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—
Cancer at other sites	7	4	11
Diabetes	—	1	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	8	6	14
Heart Disease	30	26	56
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	—	3
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	2	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	—	1
Diarrhoea	—	1	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	4	5
Nephritis	1	1	2
Premature Birth	1	1	2
Congenital Malformation, etc.	1	2	3
Suicide	1	—	1
Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4
Other Violent Causes	5	2	7
All Other Causes	9	4	13
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Totals	84	62	146
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CAUSES OF INFANTILE DEATHS.

Disease.	Male	Female	Total
Congenital Causes	1	2	3
Premature Birth	1	1	2
Diarrhœa	—	1	1
Measles	—	1	1
Totals	2	5	7

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

BIRTHS.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
1948	145	110	255	18.58
1947	133	128	261	19.69
1946	140	150	290	22.96
1945	104	103	207	15.8

DEATHS.

Year	Male	Female	Total	Death Rate
1948	84	62	146	10.6
1947	86	76	162	12.22
1946	82	81	163	12.6
1945	90	83	173	13.8

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

(Deaths of Infants under one year).

Year	Male	Female	Total	‡Mortality Rate
1948	2	5	7	27.4
1947			14	53.6
1946			11	37.9
1945			12	57.9

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infantile Mortality Rate
England and Wales	17.9	10.8	34
126 Great Towns	20.0	11.6	39
148 Smaller Towns	19.2	10.7	32
London	20.1	11.6	31
Isle of Axholme Rural District ...	18.58	10.6	27.4

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., County Offices, Lincoln.

Health Centres.

Until these centres are available, doctors, dentists and pharmacists will continue to practise at their own premises.

Maternity Service.

The following are amongst the provisions made:—

Midwives.

Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics.

Maternity Home and Hospital.

Maternity Outfits.

Care and Accommodation of Unmarried Mothers.

Dental Treatment.

Child Care.

Infant Welfare Centres. Doctors and nurses attend here to advise parents on all matters relating to the health and welfare of children up to 5 years of age.

Dental Inspection.

Dental Treatment.

Welfare Foods.

Care of Premature Infants.

Day Nurseries.

School Clinics.

School Medical Inspection. Children attending maintained schools are examined as a routine three times during their school lives; on entry, in the last year of attendance at the Primary School and in their last year at School. Defects or conditions requiring attention are notified to the parents who are invited to be present at the examination.

Consultations and Specialist Treatment.

Speech Defects. Training and Treatment arranged for.

Home Nursing.

Health Visitors.

To advise on the care of children, nursing mothers, the prevention of the spread of infection and on health matters generally.

Sick Room Requisites, Appliances and Other Equipment.

Home Helps.

For maternity cases during the lying-in period and where help is required in the case of the sick or aged. A charge is made for this service based on the family income.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Parents may have their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria free of charge.

Mental Health.

Mental Illness. Treatment will be arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after-care will be carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

Mental Defectives. Arrangements made for institutional care. The County Council are responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their own homes.

Ambulance Service.

A very highly efficient service now operates in the area for all varieties of requirements.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES AND ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Where Held.	Day Held.	Time.
BELTON Public Hall.	Fourth Tuesday in the month.	2 p.m.
CROWLE Women's Institute.	Third Wednesday in the month.	Infant Welfare 2 p.m. Ante-Natal 10 a.m.
EPWORTH Thurlow Methodist Schoolroom.	Second and Fourth Wednesday in the month.	Infant Welfare 2 p.m. Ante-Natal 10 a.m.
KEADBY Ambulance Hut.	First Wednesday in the month.	2 p.m.

B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

General Medical Care.

The Family Doctor.

Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service (General Practitioner Obstetrician).

Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.

Dentistry.

Supplementary Eye Service.

Address of Executive Committee: Stonebow, Lincoln.

C. SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Hospital and Specialist Services.

All forms of treatment in general or special hospitals are available, both in-patient and out-patient treatment. This includes sanatorium treatment, maternity care, care of mental health and surgical operations. Consultants and specialists are available as far as resources permit.

SECTION C.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is purchased in bulk from the Doncaster and Tickhill Joint Water Board on a long term agreement. Distribution is effected by means of two water towers, one situated at Haxey and the other at Crowle. In addition to supplying the domestic needs of the District the Council provides water to industries, a large number of farms for cattle and market gardening, government camps, etc. An extension scheme was also prepared for supplying water to outlying farms. Water is available and used in all the built-up portions of each parish, as well as to a large number of premises not in the built-up areas.

Number of dwellinghouses	4,527
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Number of these supplied from mains	3,534
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The supply in each parish has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity. Bacteriological and chemical examinations of samples are arranged for monthly by the suppliers. All results have been satisfactory. There is no Plumbo-Solvent action.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Priority is given to the larger concentrations of population in this actively pursued subject. Sewers and works are in course of construction for the parish of Crowle. For Althorpe and Keadby, where large scale building is anticipated, a scheme has been approved in principle by the Minister of Health. Details of a scheme to serve the parishes of Epworth and Belton are under consideration, and the Council's Consulting Engineer has been preparing detailed plans for a scheme to serve Haxey and Owston Ferry. The Council have adopted in general principle draft schemes for the District.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE COLLECTION.

Scavenging (cleansing of privies and ashpits) is in operation under contract in the parishes of Althorpe, Crowle, Epworth, Haxey, Keadby, Owston Ferry, West Butterwick and Wroot. The Council placed orders for two modern scavenging vehicles with the intention of undertaking scavenging by direct labour throughout the District.

Collection of household refuse and salvage is operated throughout the District by direct labour, a modern vehicle having been acquired in 1947 for the purpose.

Controlled tipping under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector is effected at various tips in the District. There are five tips, each being a mile and a half from habitation.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

TOTAL OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR ...	123
(1) By the Local Authority	109
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	14

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	30
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	50
(2) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(3) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts	Nil
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4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.

(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	35
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	40
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	262

Further progress has been made to meet the acute shortage, 142 houses having been completed, with a further 96 under construction; in addition, building sites are available for development. Temporary dwellings have also been provided by the conversion of disused War Department buildings to the extent of 78 family units. The housing need is obvious and no effort should be spared to provide the necessary housing accommodation.

The following figures give the progress of the erection since 1945:—

Number of Council Houses erected prior to 1945	304
Number completed since 1945	142
Number under contract	96
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Total	542
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SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections by the Sanitary Inspector were made of shops, stalls, vehicles, and food preparing places. Cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops were also kept under supervision. Slaughtering is now carried out at a central abattoir where the necessary inspection of meat takes place. The public ought to be more conscious of the dangerous risks which are inevitable in these times of shortages, when people are eating all sorts of prepared and made-up articles. Also communal feeding places may easily be supervised by persons with little or no knowledge of hygiene. Posters and leaflets, offering advice on the subject of cleanliness of persons and premises having regard to food-poisoning, are often treated with far too little seriousness. Much can be done by way of polite and tactfully made communications which would be helpful. The Sanitary Inspector, already having many onerous tasks to carry out, is urged to spare no efforts in the directions indicated. Therefore, it is to be hoped, that, with increasing vigilance in the future, we may be fortunate enough to avoid outbreaks of food-poisoning, which have been recognised in various parts of the country.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified this year was comparatively small. There were very few cases of Measles, and it is very satisfactory to record that not one case of Diphtheria has arisen since 1946. Subsequent to the 5th July, when the

National Health Service was established, the use of Gainsborough Isolation Hospital has been discontinued for the admission of fever cases. Such patients requiring isolation are now sent chiefly to Lincoln Infectious Diseases Hospital. But, if accommodation is available, arrangements are made for admission of Isle of Axholme cases to Scunthorpe or Doncaster.

The following Diseases were notified during 1948:—

Scarlet Fever	10
Whooping Cough	12
Measles	25
Acute Pneumonia	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2
Tuberculosis	11

The following tables show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases by reference to Parishes and Age Groups.

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia
Burnham	4	—	—	—	—
Epworth	—	—	1	—	—
Haxey	1	—	—	—	1
Keadby	—	2	—	—	—
Owston Ferry	3	—	—	—	1
Sandtoft	—	—	—	1	—
West Butterwick	—	9	8	—	—
Westwoodside	2	—	1	—	—
Wroot	—	1	15	—	—

Totals	10	12	25	1	2
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AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia
0-1	—	1	—	—	—
1-2	—	4	1	—	—
2-3	1	2	—	—	—
3-4	3	1	1	—	—
4-5	1	1	—	1	—
5-10	1	3	23	—	—
10-15	3	—	—	—	—
15-20	—	—	—	—	1
20-35	1	—	—	—	1
35 up	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	12	25	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	1	—	—
10—15	—	—	2	1
15—25	2	—	—	—
25—45	2	2	—	—
45—65	—	1	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—
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Totals	4	4	2	1 = 11
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DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
M.	F.	M.	F.
2	2	—	—
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Total 4			

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	33	28	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	49	34	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	36	36	Nil	Nil
Total	118	98	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

	Sanitary Conveniences (Unsuitable or Defective)	Other offences against the Act (not relating to outwork)
Found	3	1
Remedied	3	1
Referred by H.M. Inspector	3	1
No. of prosecutions	Nil	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT.
OUTWORK.

Sections 110 and 111.

	Wearing apparel (making, etc.)	All other items
No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	2	Nil
No. of defaults, prosecutions, notices served (under all headings)	Nil	Nil

